

REMARKS

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Muderlak et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,467,651.

Also, in the Office Action, Claims 4-5 and 14-15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 had been amended herein to include the subject matter of Claim 4 and independent Claim 11 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of Claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 11 are now in condition for allowance. Objected to Claims 5 and 15 are now dependent from independent Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and should also be in condition for allowance as placing additional limitations on allowable Claims 1 and 11.

It is respectfully submitted that previously rejected dependent Claims 2-3, 6-10, 12-13 and 16-20 are now also allowable as placing additional limitations on amended and allowable independent Claims 1 and 11.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20, and of the objections to Claims 4-5 and 14-15, are respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 15-20 patentably distinguish over the prior art and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully solicited.

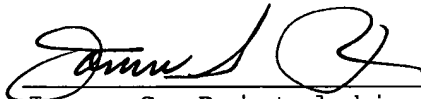
Also enclosed is a petition for a one month extension of time to make the filing of this Amendment timely. In accordance with the enclosed Petition form, please charge our deposit account number 50-1039 for the applicable fee for this petition.

It is believed that no other fees are due. However, if any fees are applicable, kindly charge any such fees to our deposit account number 50-1039.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to further discuss any of these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated


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